

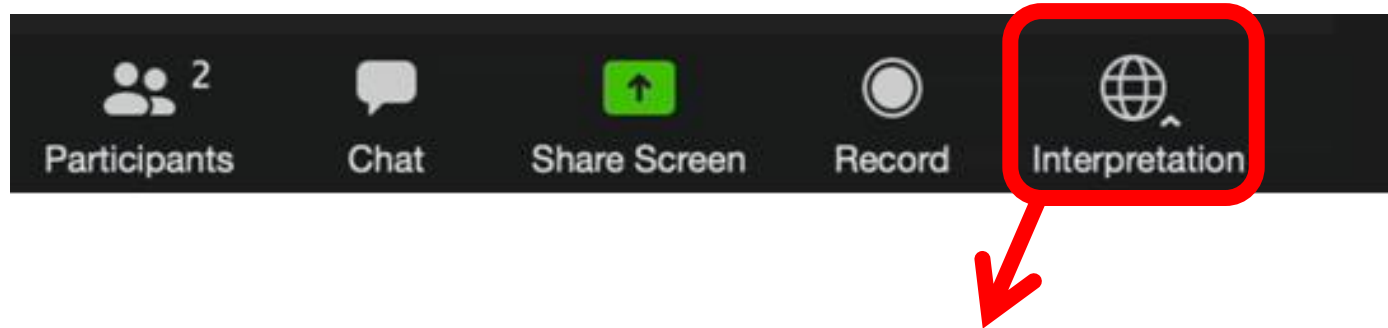
Health, Equity, and Environmental Justice Forum

September 21, 2021

GPAC Review Draft



Zoom – What You Need To Know



La interpretación en simultáneo para esta reunión se dará en los siguientes idiomas:

Español – bajo la opción Español

Por favor haz clic en el icono INTERPRETATION en tu barra de herramientas para acceder al idioma deseado

Meeting Agenda

- Context and background on health, equity, and environmental justice (EJ)
- Existing conditions in Ventura
- Best practices from other cities
- Q&A/Discussion

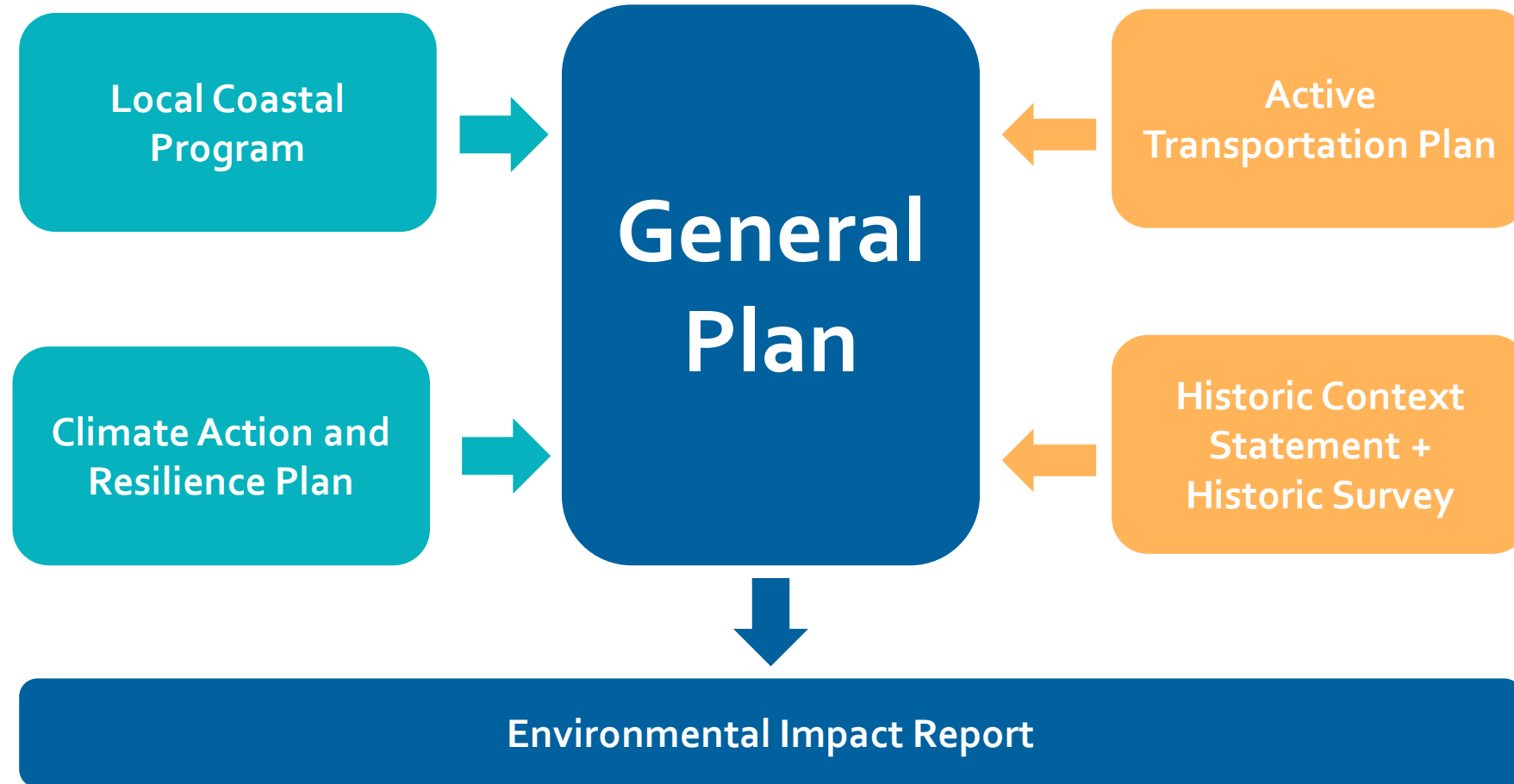


Discussion Question

What are the key health, equity, and environmental justice issues in the City?



What is the Project?



Purpose of a General Plan

- Long-term policy document to **guide the future actions**.
- Establishes the **City's vision** for the next 25-30 years.
- Preserves and enhances **community strengths**.
- Addresses **topics of concern**.
- Enables the community to come together to develop a **shared vision for the future**.
- Updated every 10-15 years.
- California's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) establishes requirements and guidelines.

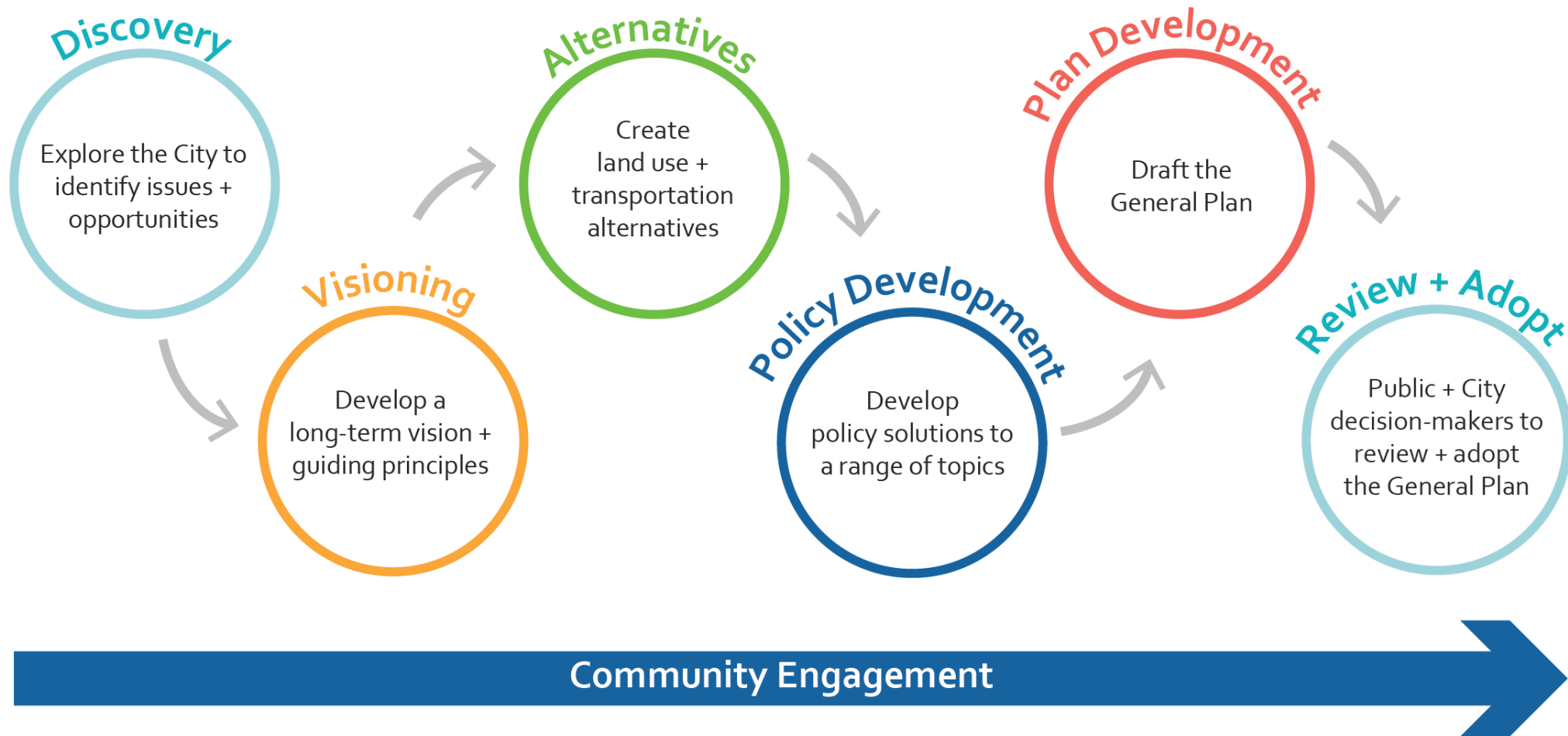
“Vision about how a community will grow, reflecting community priorities and values while shaping the future.”

WHAT IS A GENERAL PLAN?

A General Plan is like a road map for the future of Ventura



General Plan Update Process



Context, Background, Key Terms

Key Concept: Equity

- **Equity is about ensuring people have access to the same opportunities and have what they need to thrive and succeed.**
- **Equity is both our process and the outcome we seek to achieve**

Types of Racism

Interpersonal Racism

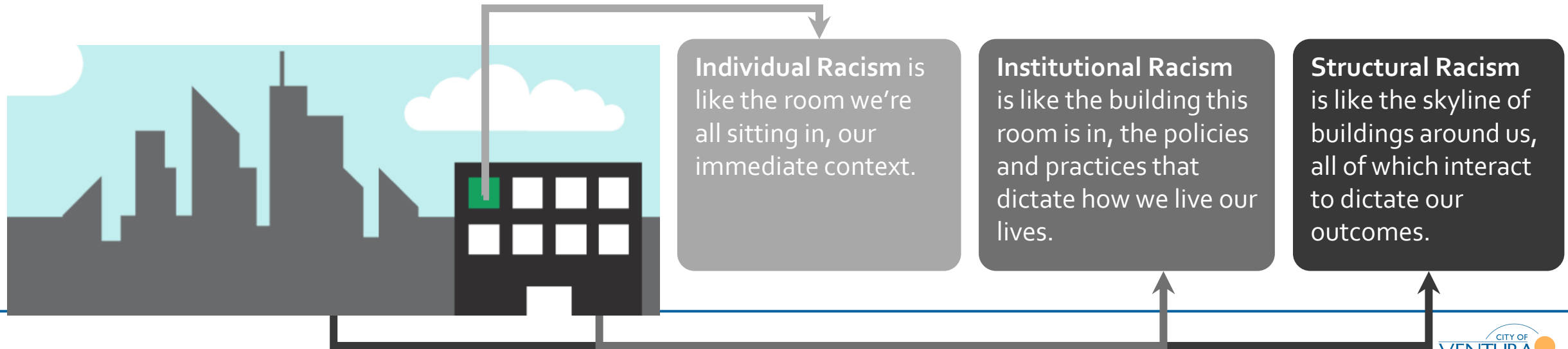
Pre-judgment, bias, or discrimination based on race by an individual.

Institutional Racism

Policies, practices, and procedures that work better for white people than for people of color (regardless of if intentional or not).

Structural Racism

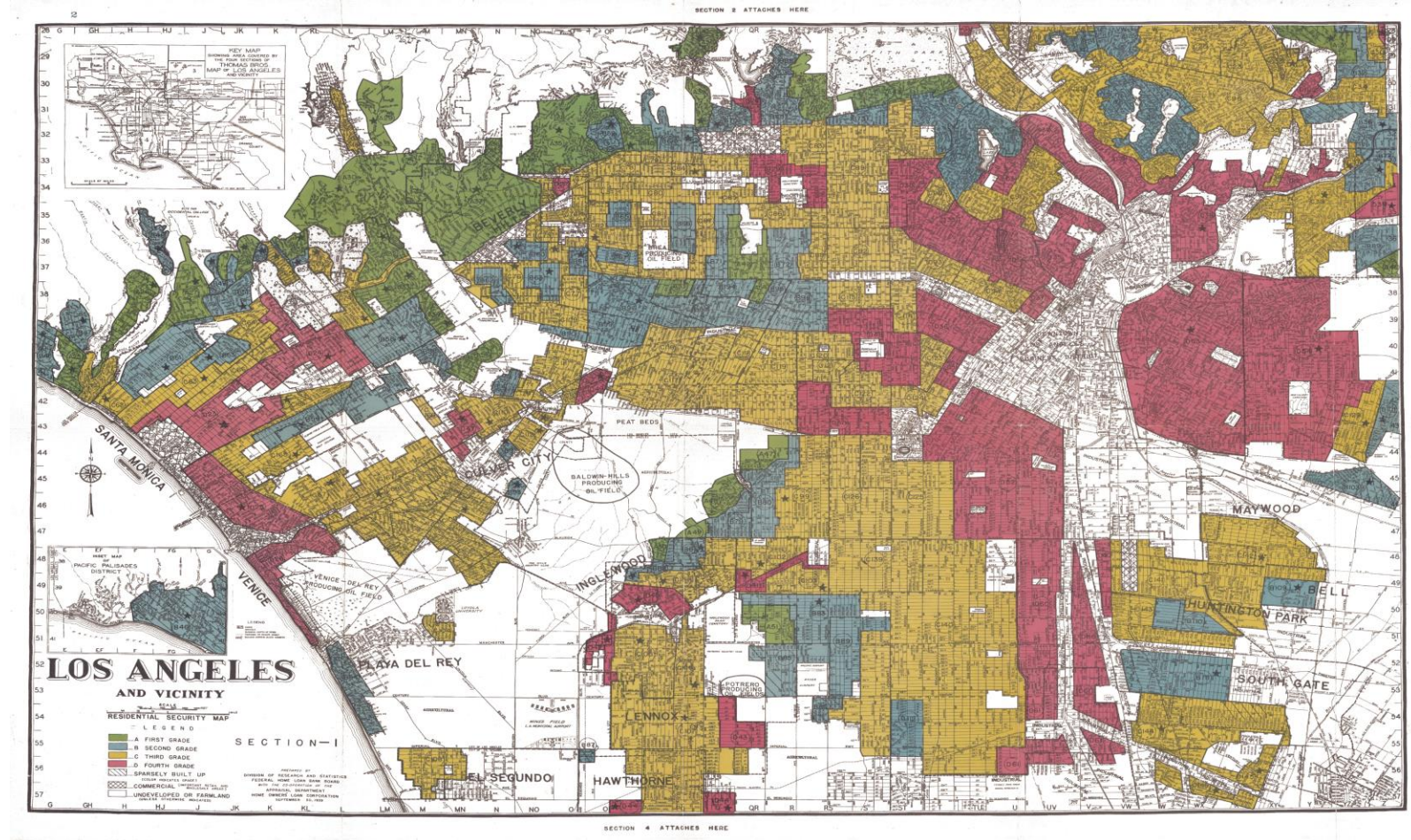
Systems of institutions that interact with one another to generate and reinforce racial inequities.



Racism in Planning and Development

Planning decisions, coupled with historic institutional racism, have enabled cities and regions to be separated based on race and income.

- “Redlining” – restrictions on lending that targeted black communities



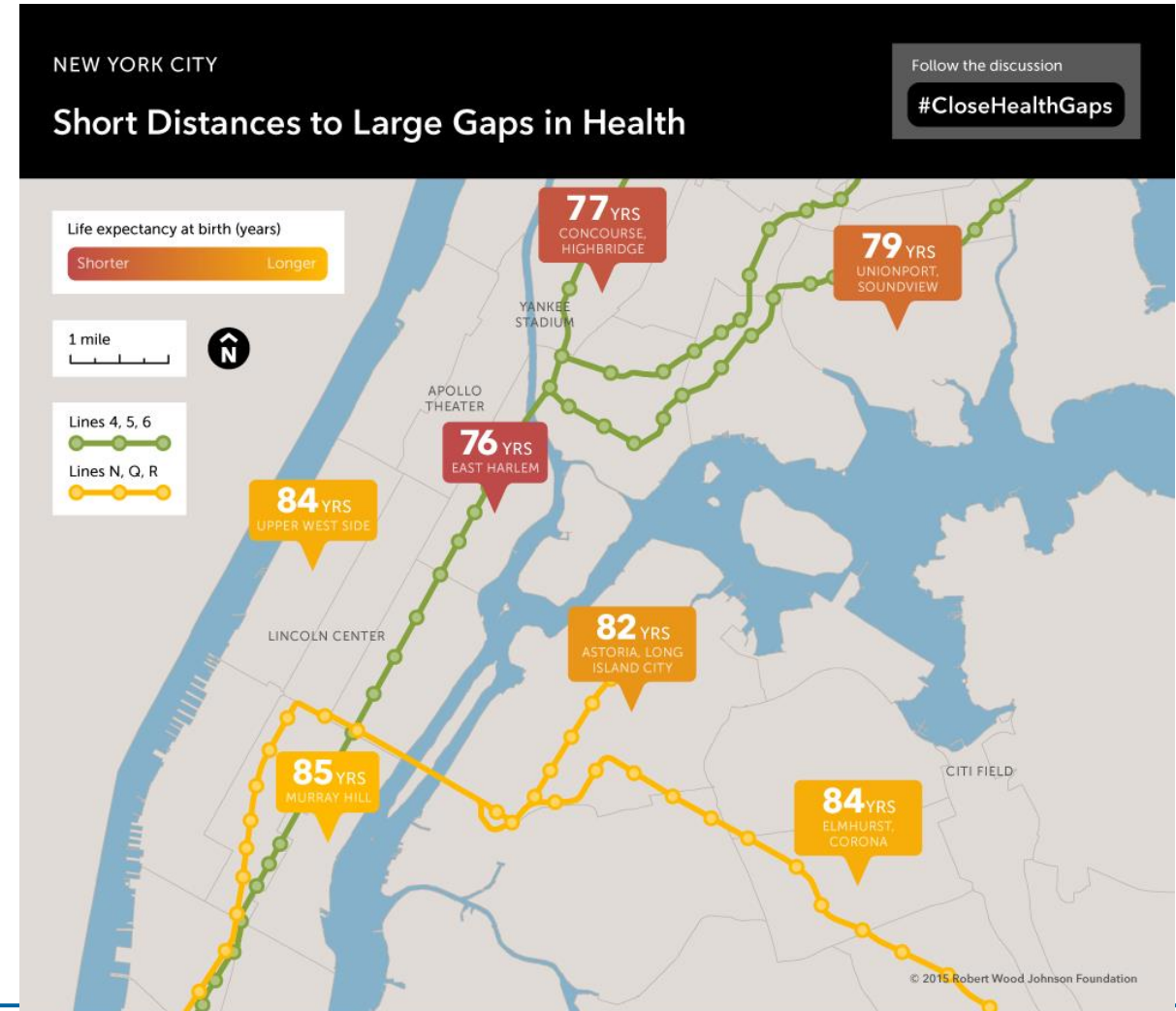
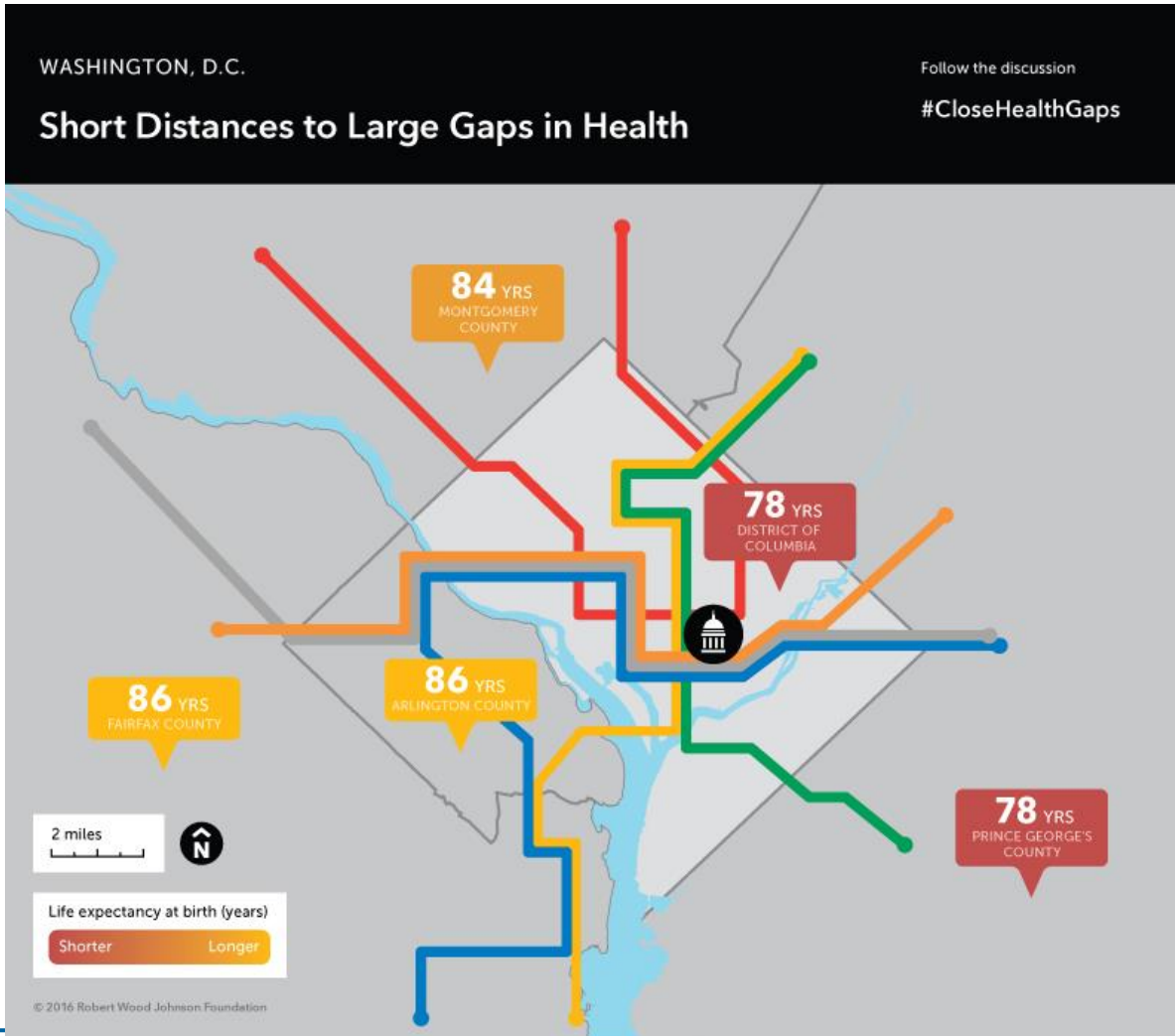
Source: University of Richmond, Digital Scholarship Lab

Racism in Planning and Development

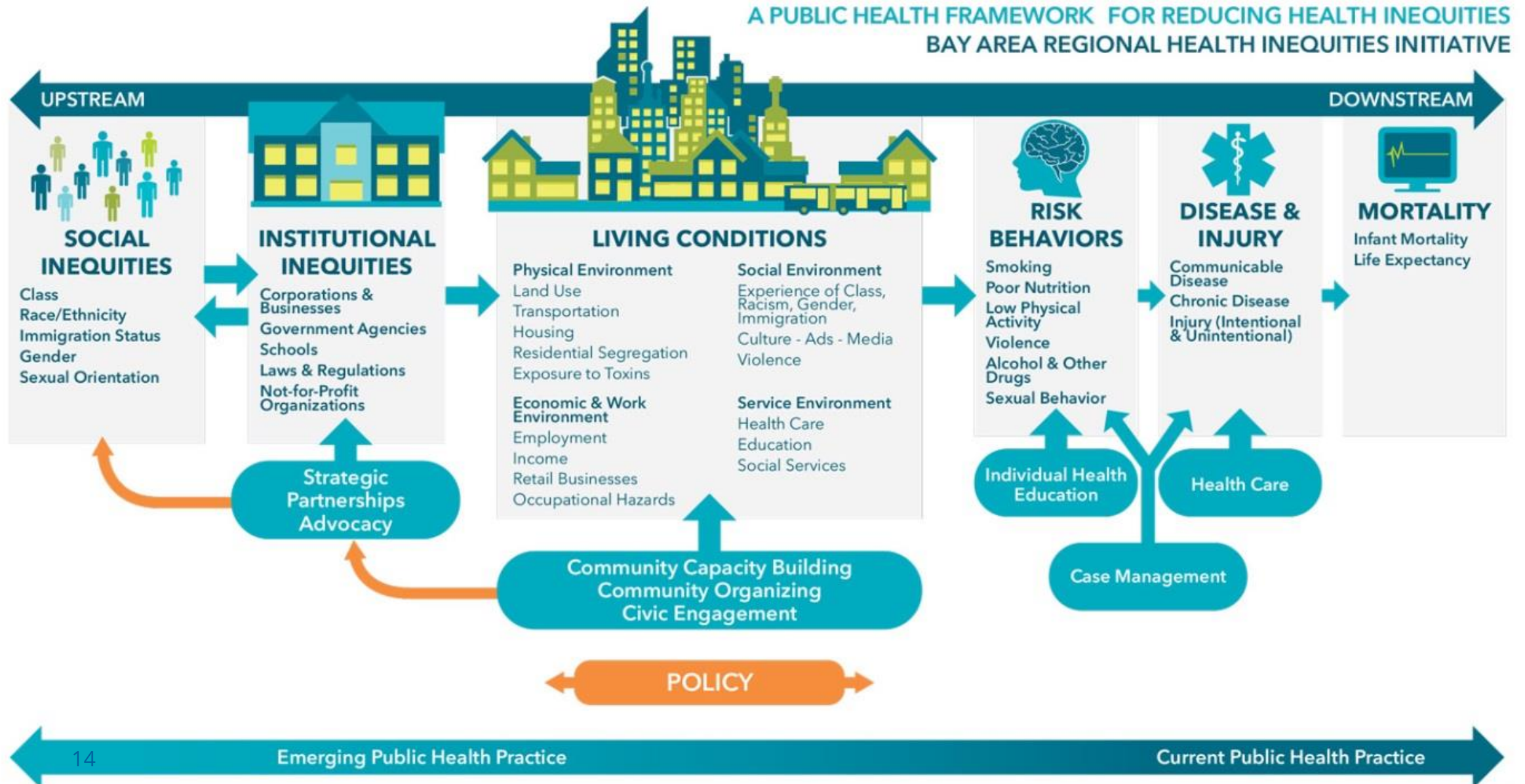
- **Siting of waste facilities** and other polluting infrastructure in low-income communities and communities of color
 - **Placing of housing and schools** near polluting infrastructure
- **Urban renewal, redevelopment, and highway construction**
 - **Displacement** of low-income communities and communities of color
- **Exclusive, low-density cities** and single-family zoning

*"The further separation of **detached single-family homes** through minimum lot size requirements separates owners by wealth. In short, low-density zoning excludes low-income and minority residents"*
(Massey and Rothwell 2009)

Life Expectancy Gap: Place Matters



Social Determinants of Health



Healthy and Equitable Communities



Demonstrations Against Environmental Injustice



Photos from Ventura Demonstrations

Sources: VC Star

Environmental Justice Movement



1850s to 1900s –
Tenement
crowding and
illnesses in US
industrial towns



1960s – California
Farmworkers
movement,
workplace
exposure to toxins



1980s – Rural
Black community
sit-ins in Afton, NC
against toxic
landfill siting



1980s – LANCER
incinerator
protests in South
Central LA

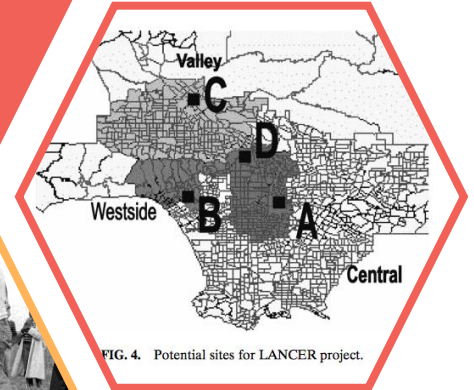


FIG. 4. Potential sites for LANCER project.

Source: Wikimedia Commons;
History.com; NBC News; NRDC; Lejano

California Environmental Justice Law

- In 1999, **California codified EJ into statute**: “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”
- In 2008, SB 535 required CalEPA to identify disadvantaged communities (DACs) and to **allocate 25% of cap-and-trade funds to DACs**
- In 2016, **Senate Bill 1000 enshrined EJ into local planning**. It requires jurisdictions with DACs to integrate EJ into the General Plan.

What is a “disadvantaged community”?

According to state law, a “disadvantaged community” (DAC) is defined as: “...a **low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards** that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.”



Source: Los Angeles Times

Low-Income



**High Pollution
and Health
Burden**



**Disadvantaged
Community**

SB 1000 Process

There are three steps to developing an Environmental Justice (EJ) Element.

1. Analysis

Identify disadvantaged communities (DACs), including unique or compounded risks



2. Engagement

Engagement with the community, especially in DACs, on a minimum of five topic areas related to environmental justice



3. Policy Development

Integration of goals, policies, and programs into the General Plan to address DAC priorities

SB 1000 Environmental Justice Element

SB 1000 goals:

1. **Reduce unique and compounded health risks** in disadvantaged communities
2. **Promote civic engagement** in the public decision-making process
3. **Identify objectives** and policies that prioritize improvements **that address the needs of disadvantaged communities**

Reduce Pollution Exposure: air quality, water quality, soil quality, and land use compatibility

Promote Food Access: grocery stores, farmers' markets, community gardens, etc.

Promote Physical Activity: walkable and bikeable communities, access to transit, safety

Promote Public Facilities: parks, schools, health facilities, etc.

Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes: housing location, quality, and affordability

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Existing Conditions: Health, Equity, and Environmental Justice

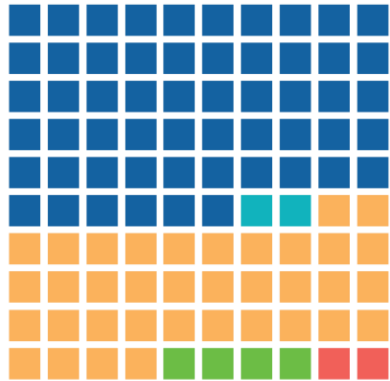
Demographics

Race / Ethnicity

- Not determinants on their own
- Strongly correlated with poor health

Race / Ethnicity (2019)

City of Ventura



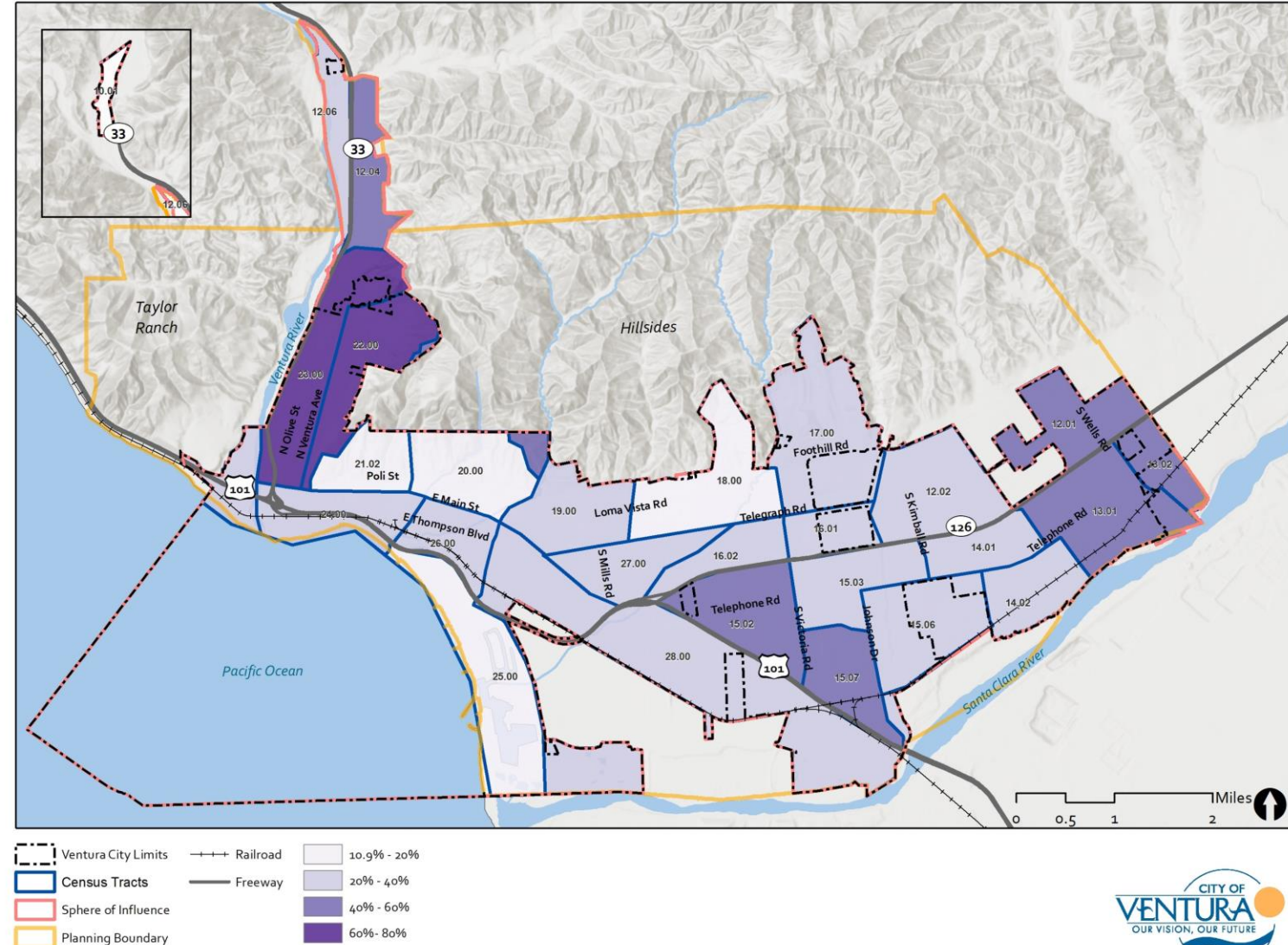
- White (56%)
- Black (2%)
- Hispanic/Latino (36%)
- Asian (4%)
- Other/2 or More Races (2%)

Ventura County



- White (45%)
- Black (2%)
- Hispanic/Latino (43%)
- Asian (7%)
- Other/2 or More Races (3%)

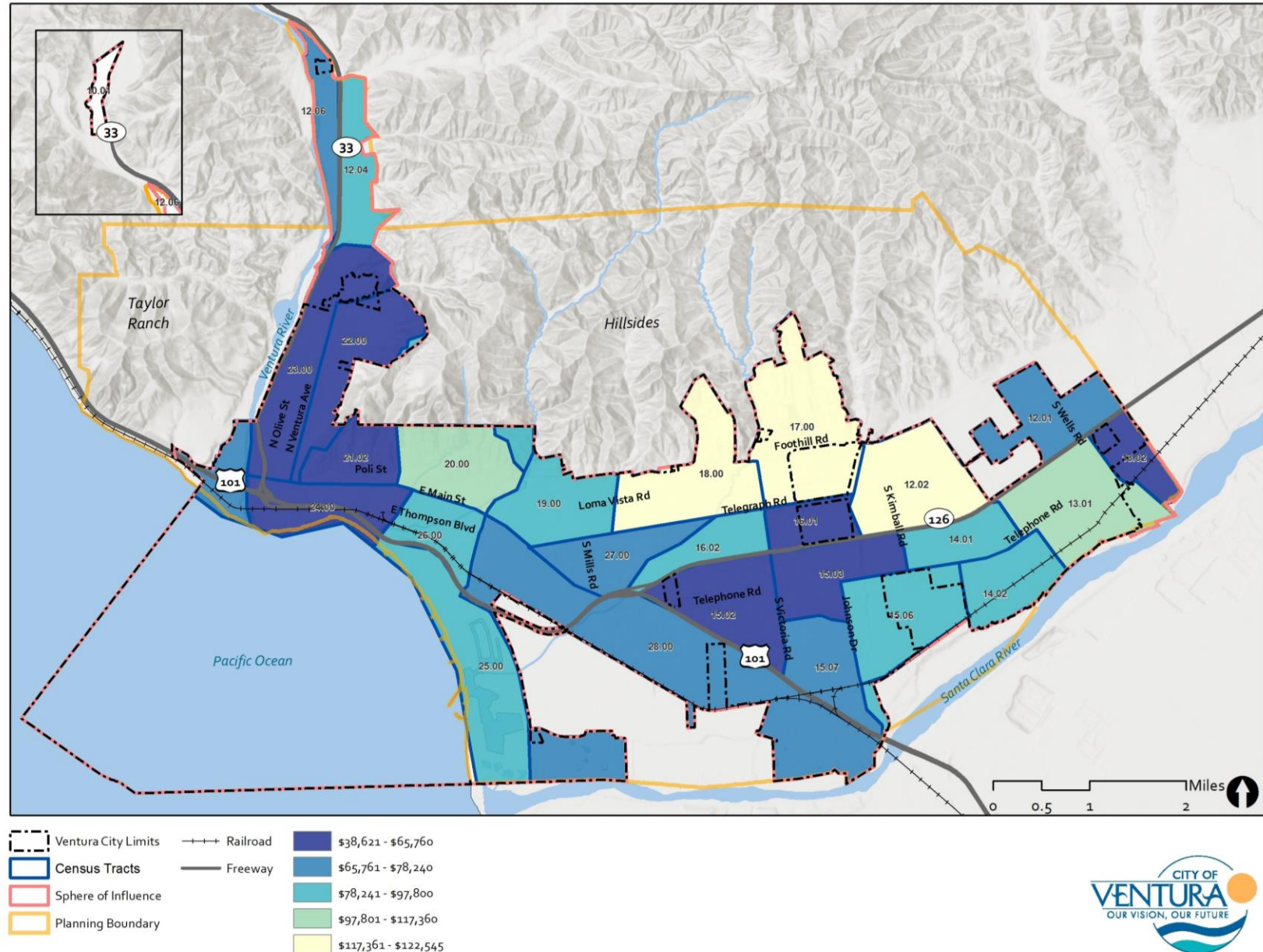
Percent of Hispanic or Latino Population



Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); ACS15-19 (2019); ESRI (2020)

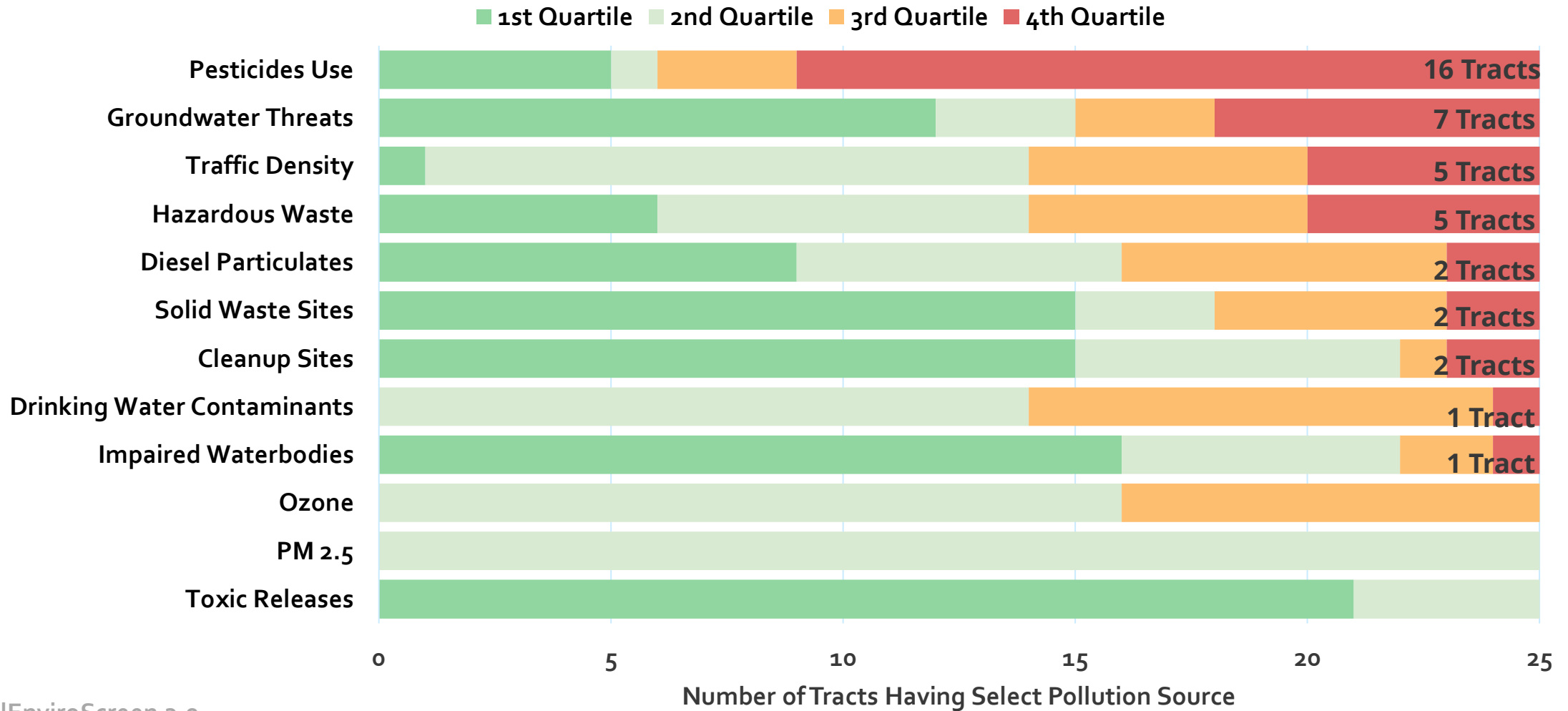
Income

- Income is a strong social determinant of health
- Linked to ability to:
 - Live in an area with high quality education
 - Access health care and other services
 - Afford healthy foods
 - Pay for quality housing
- Having a lower income makes you vulnerable to several health and pollution burdens



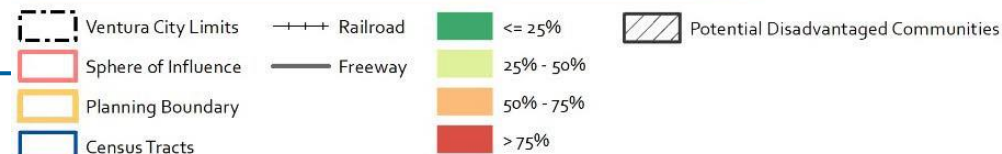
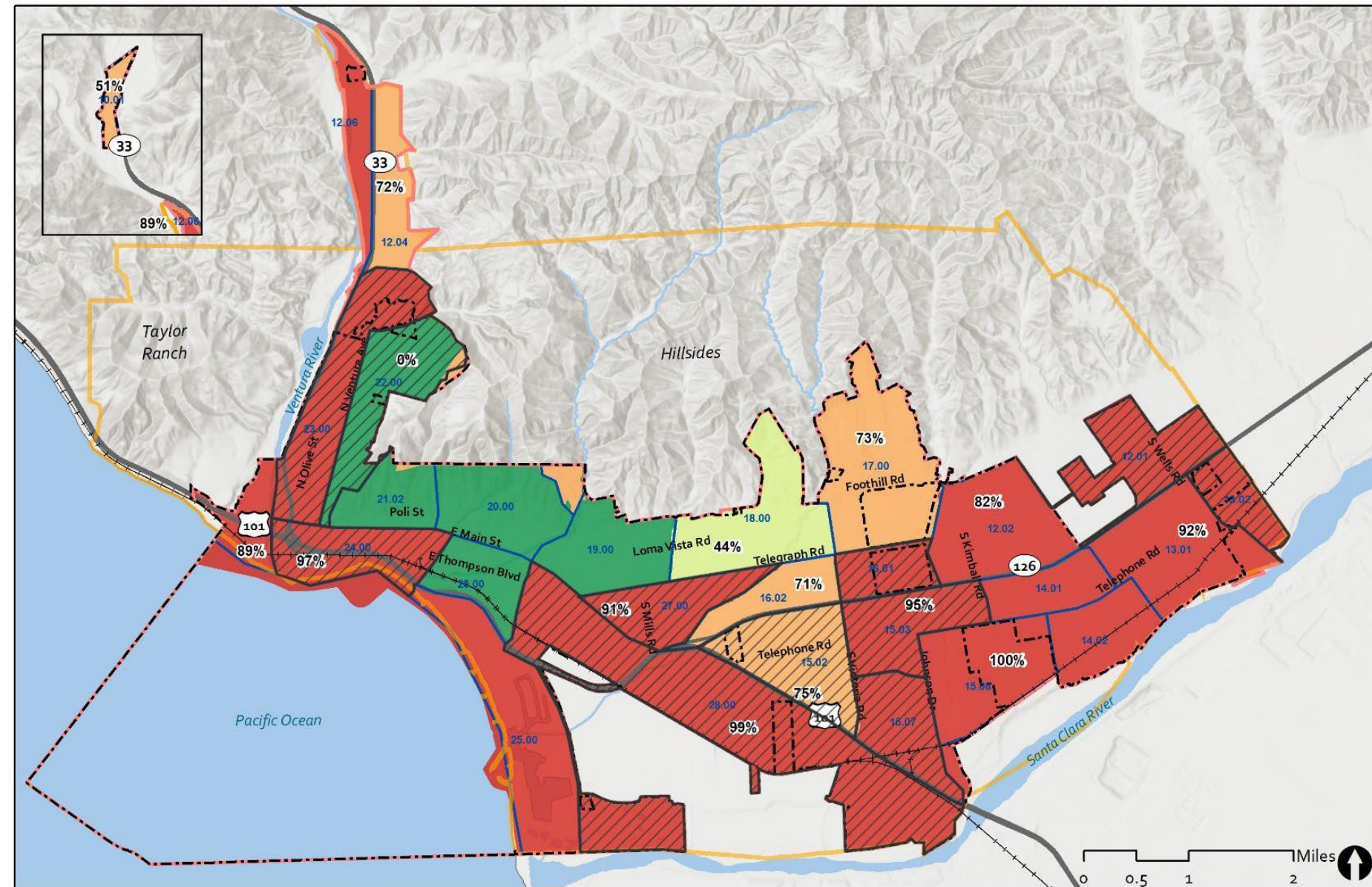
Pollution Exposure

Citywide Pollution Burden



Source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0

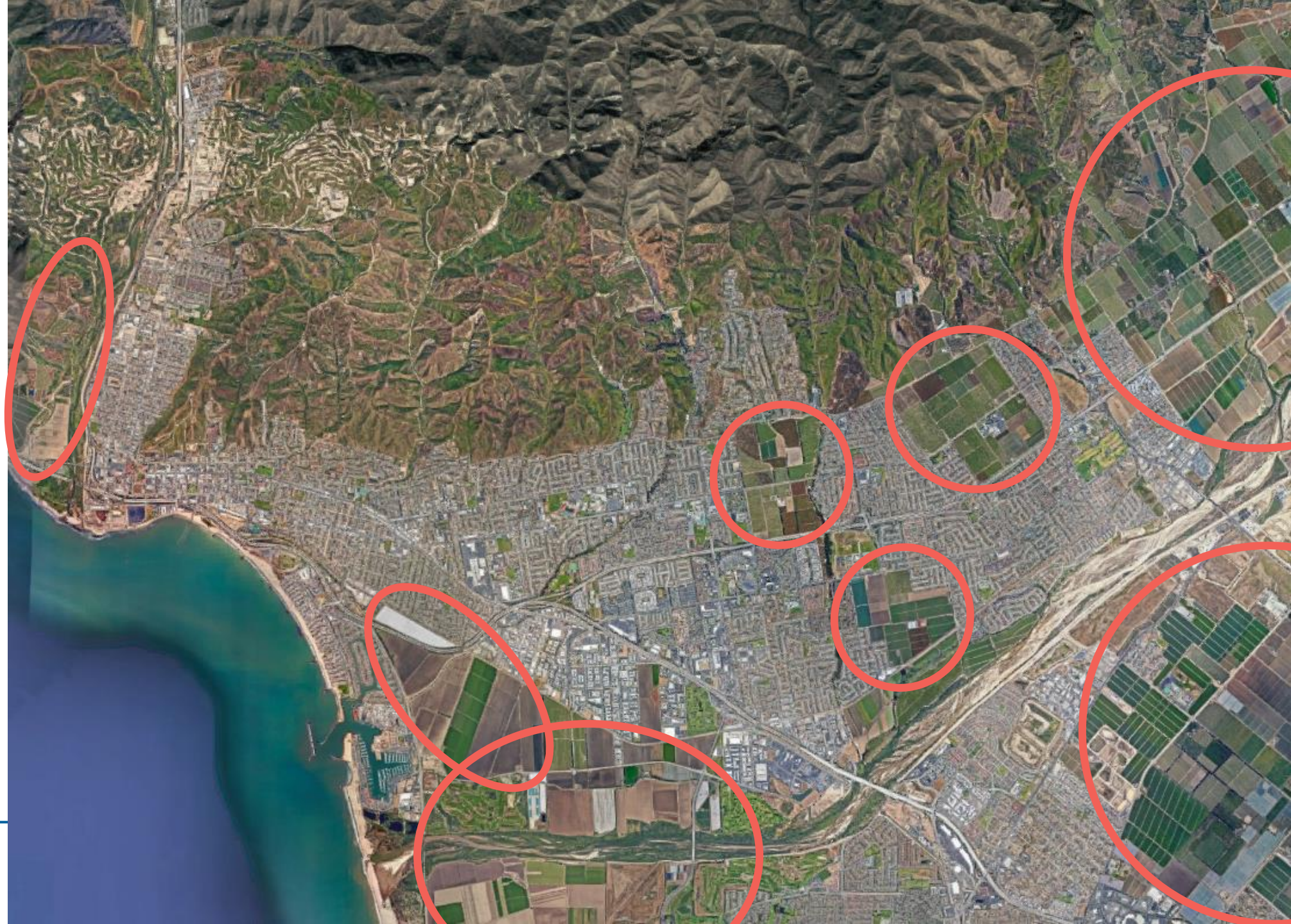
Pesticide Use



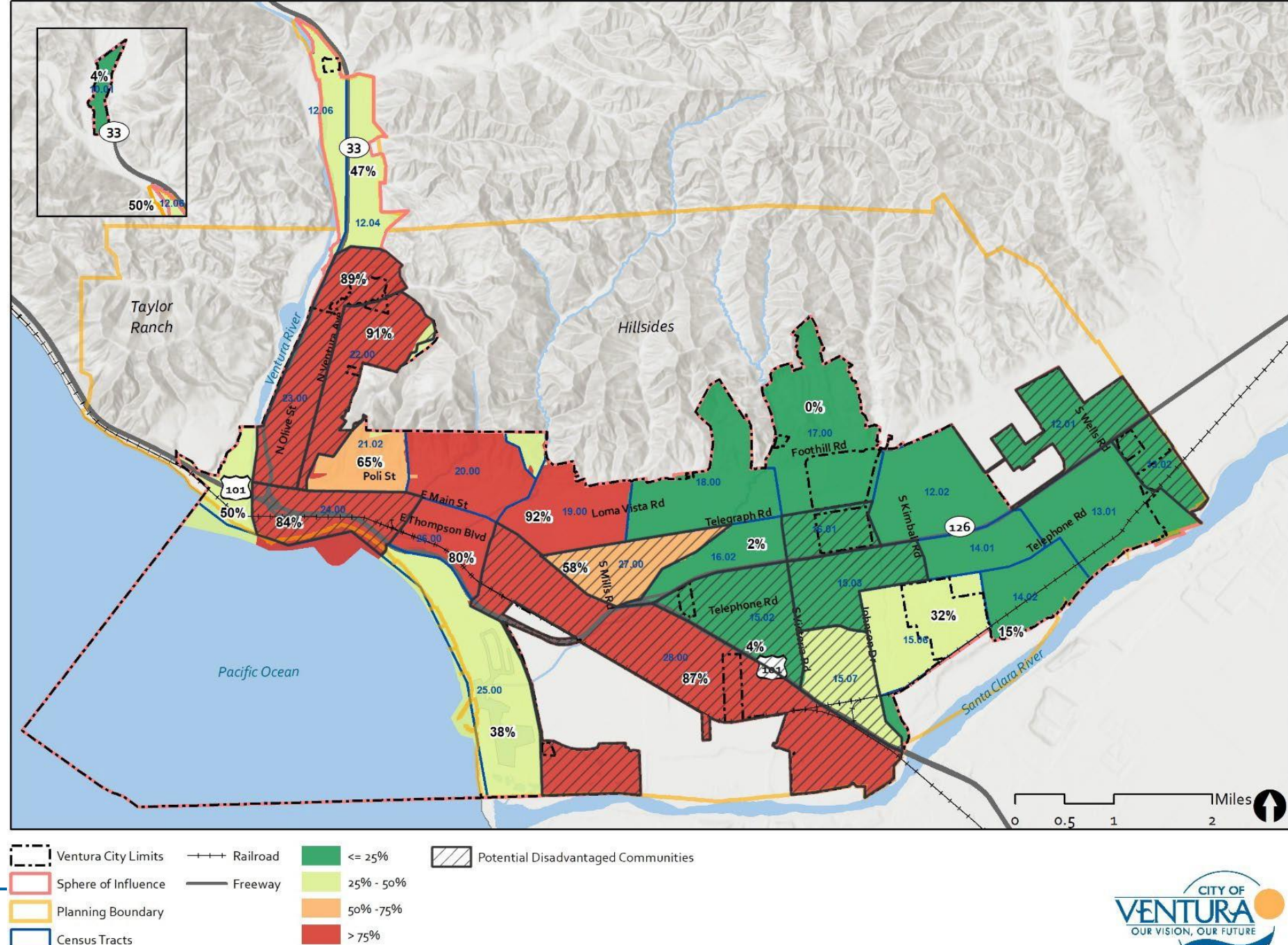
Note: Two-digit bold numbers in black represent CES pesticides percentile scores. Four-digit bold numbers in blue represent census tract numbers.

Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); CalEnviroScreen 3.0 (2018); ESRI (2020)

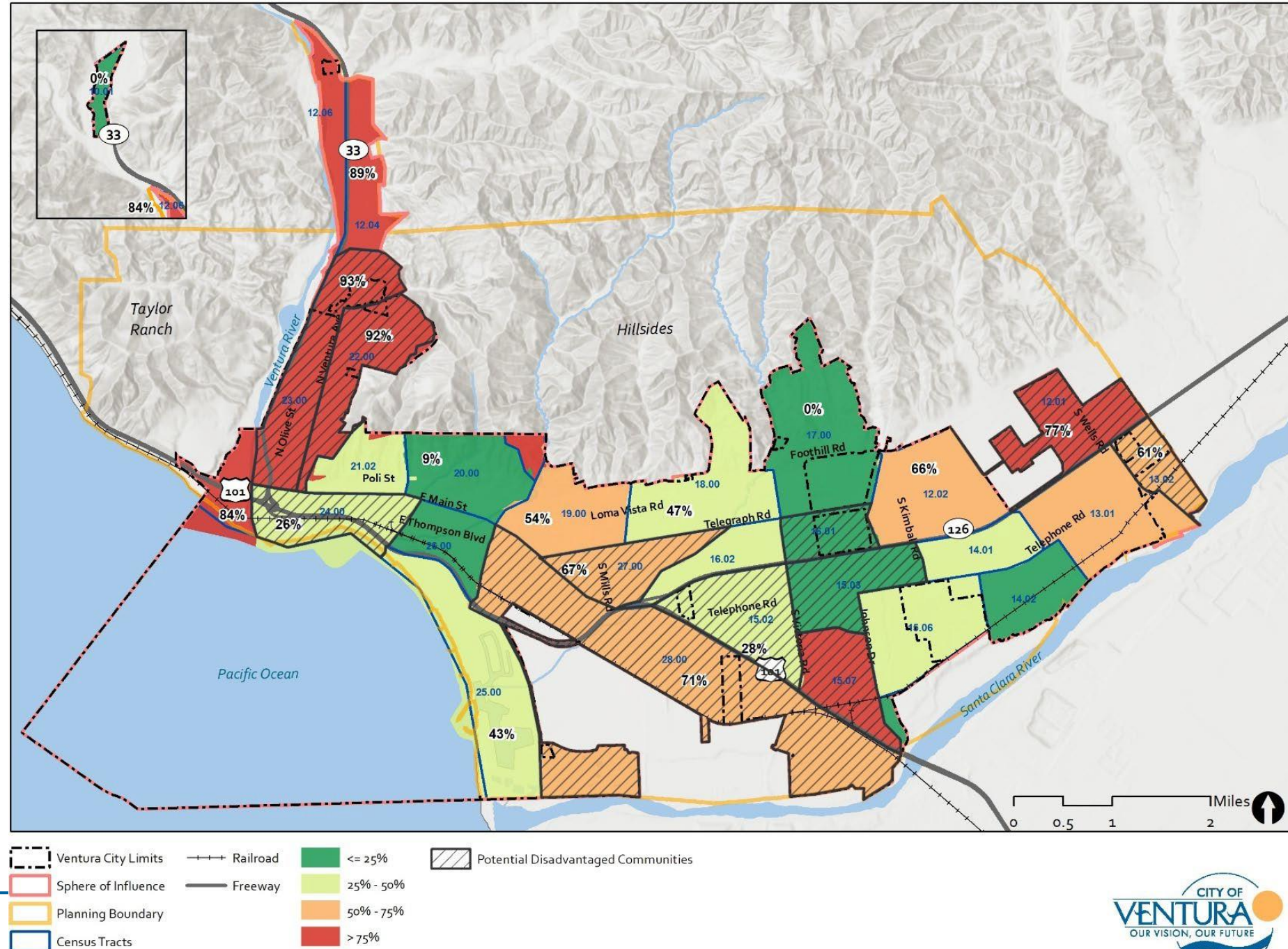
Agricultural Land Uses



Groundwater Threats



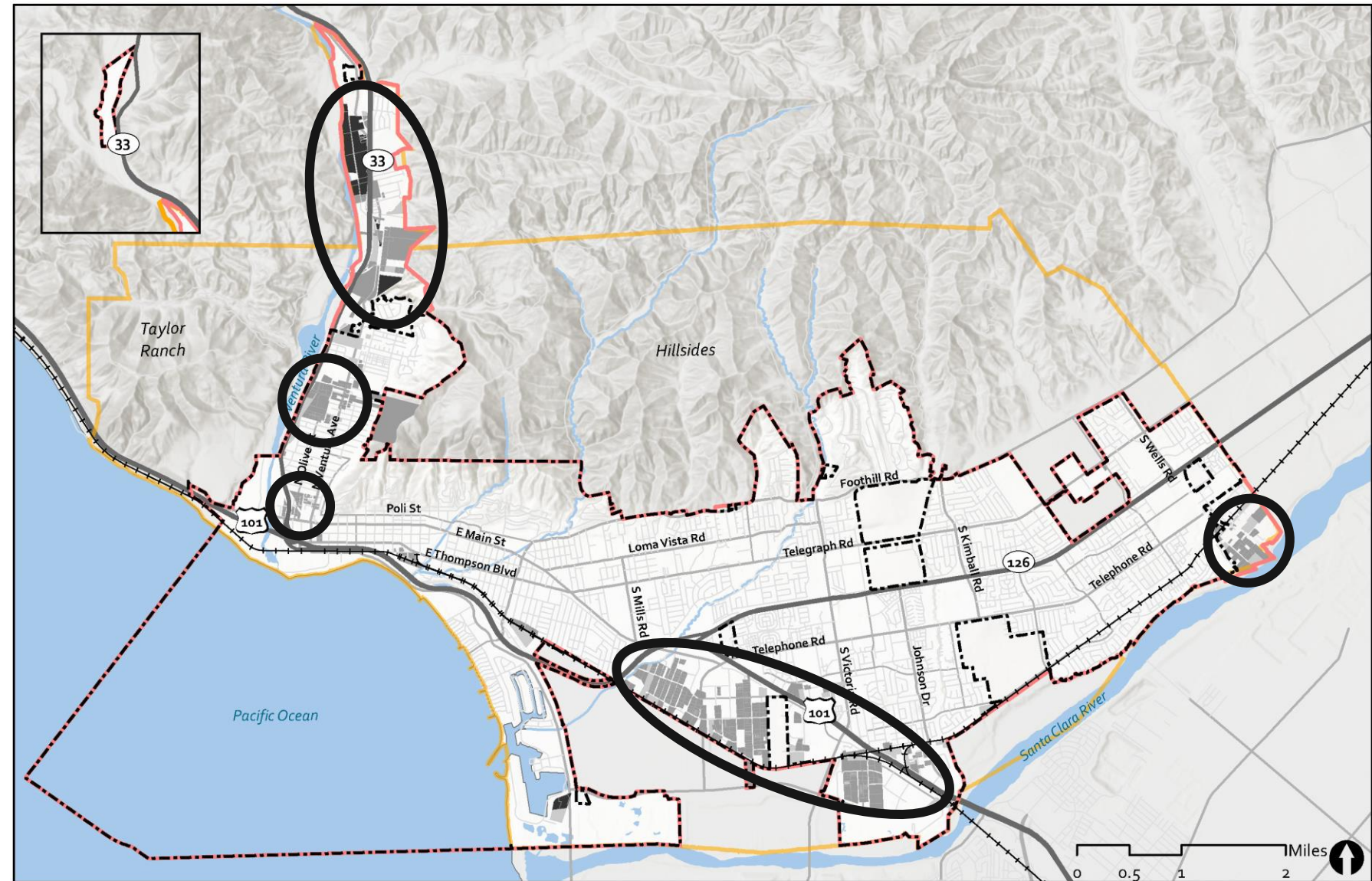
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities



Note: Two-digit bold numbers in black represent CES hazardous waste percentile scores. Four-digit bold numbers in blue represent census tract numbers.
 Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); CalEnviroScreen 3.0 (2018); ESRI (2020)

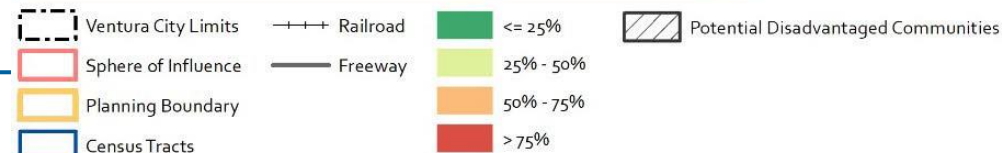
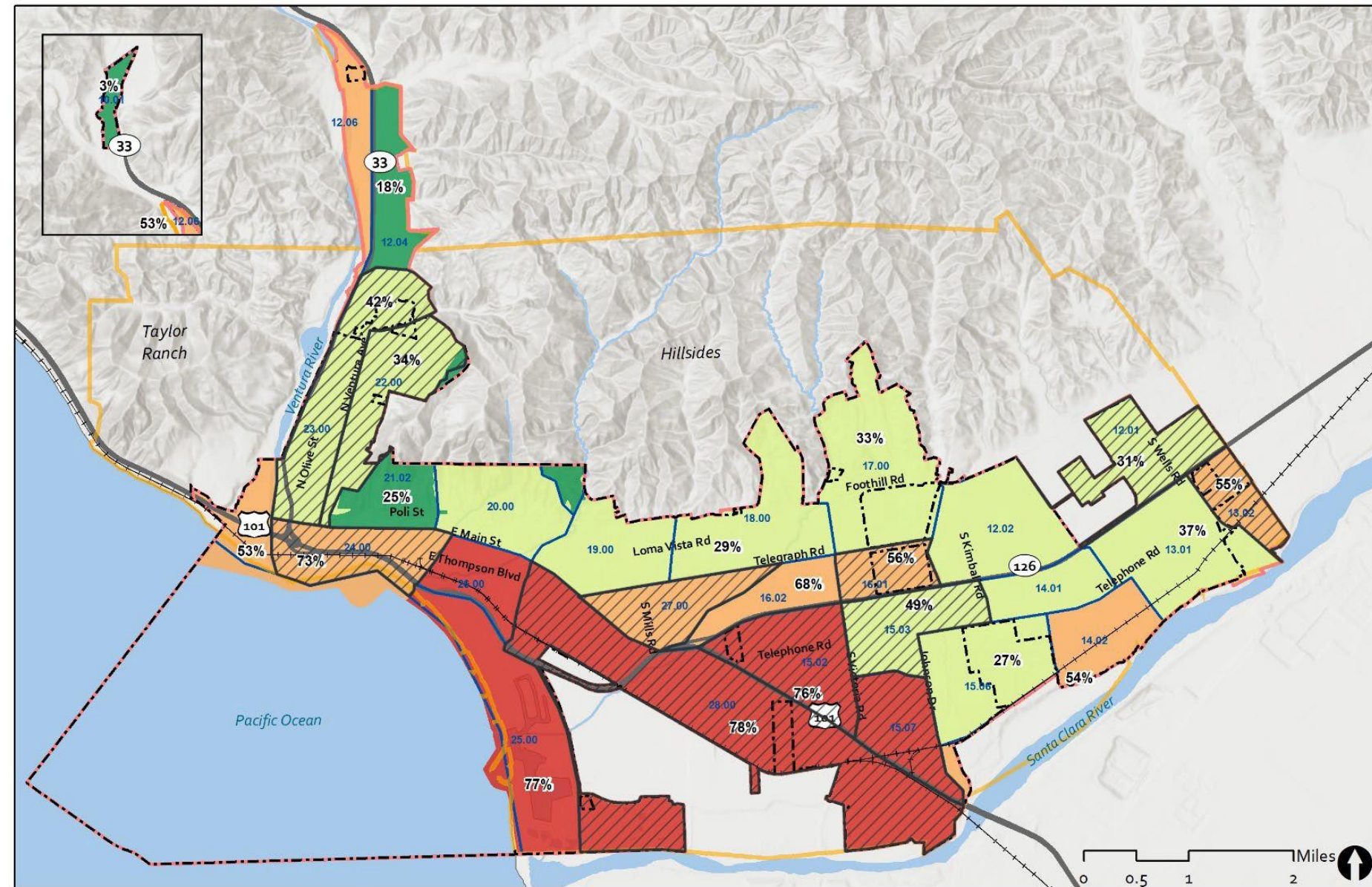
Industrial Land Uses

Existing Land Use: Industrial



Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); ESRI (2020)

Traffic Density

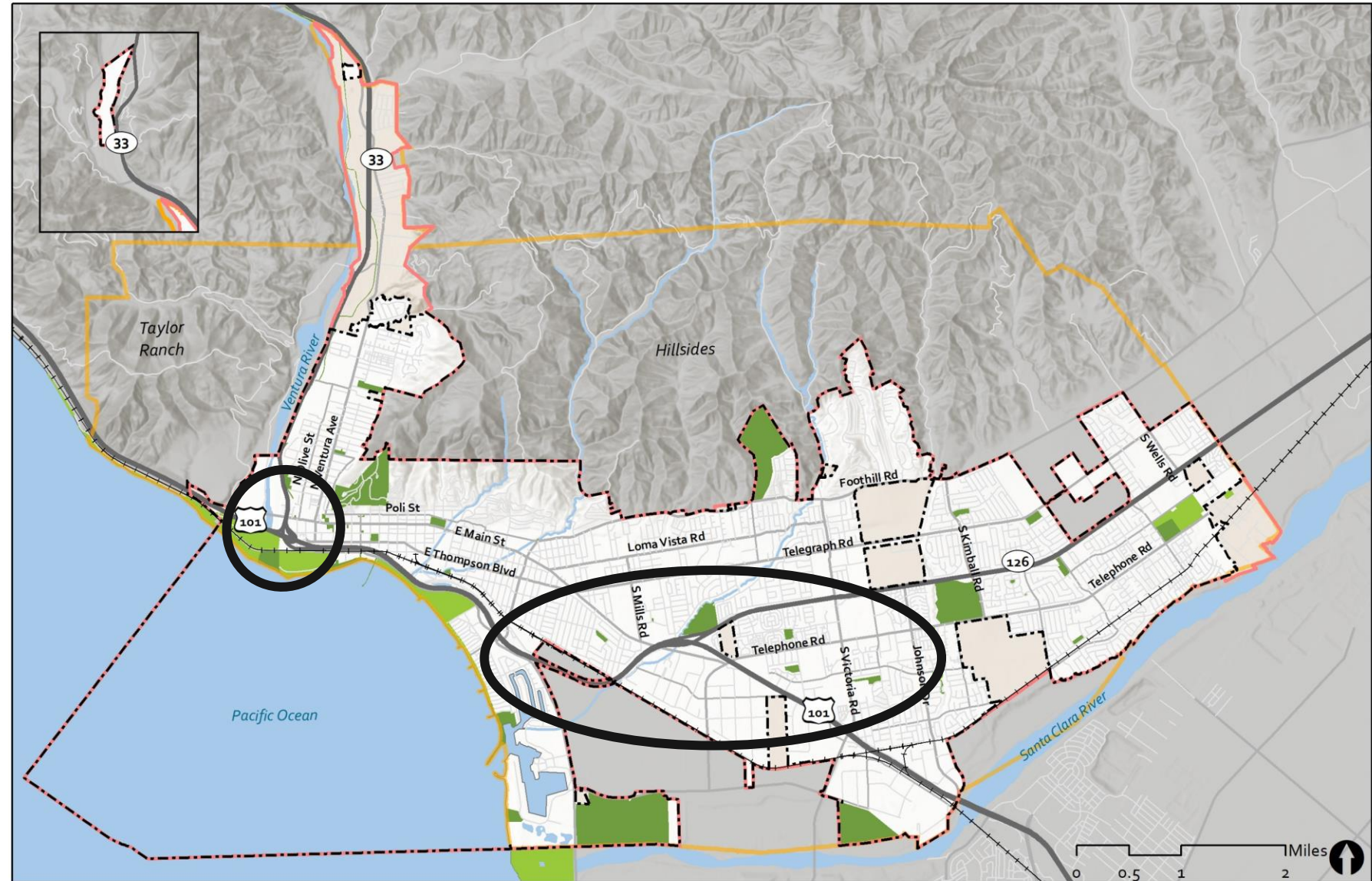


Note: Two-digit bold numbers in black represent CES traffic density percentile scores. Four-digit bold numbers in blue represent census tract numbers.

Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); CalEnviroScreen 3.0 (2018); ESRI (2020)

Highways and Interchanges

City of Ventura



Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); ESRI (2020)

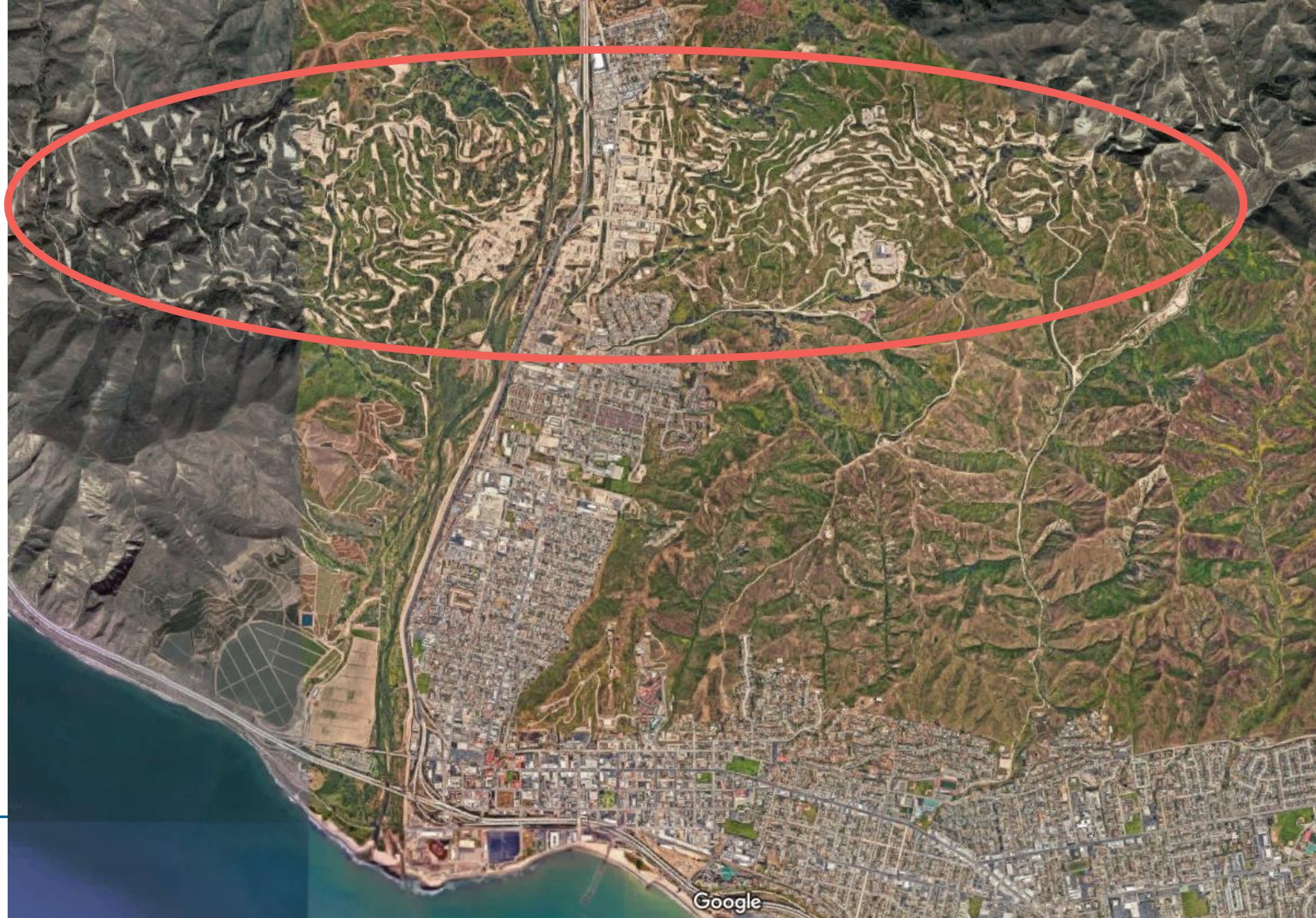
Oil and Gas Facilities



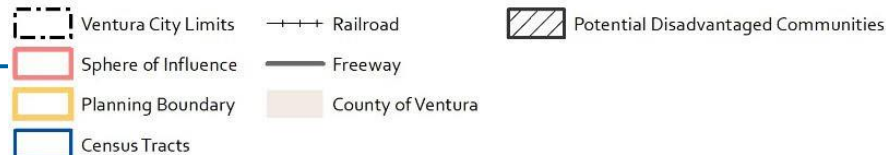
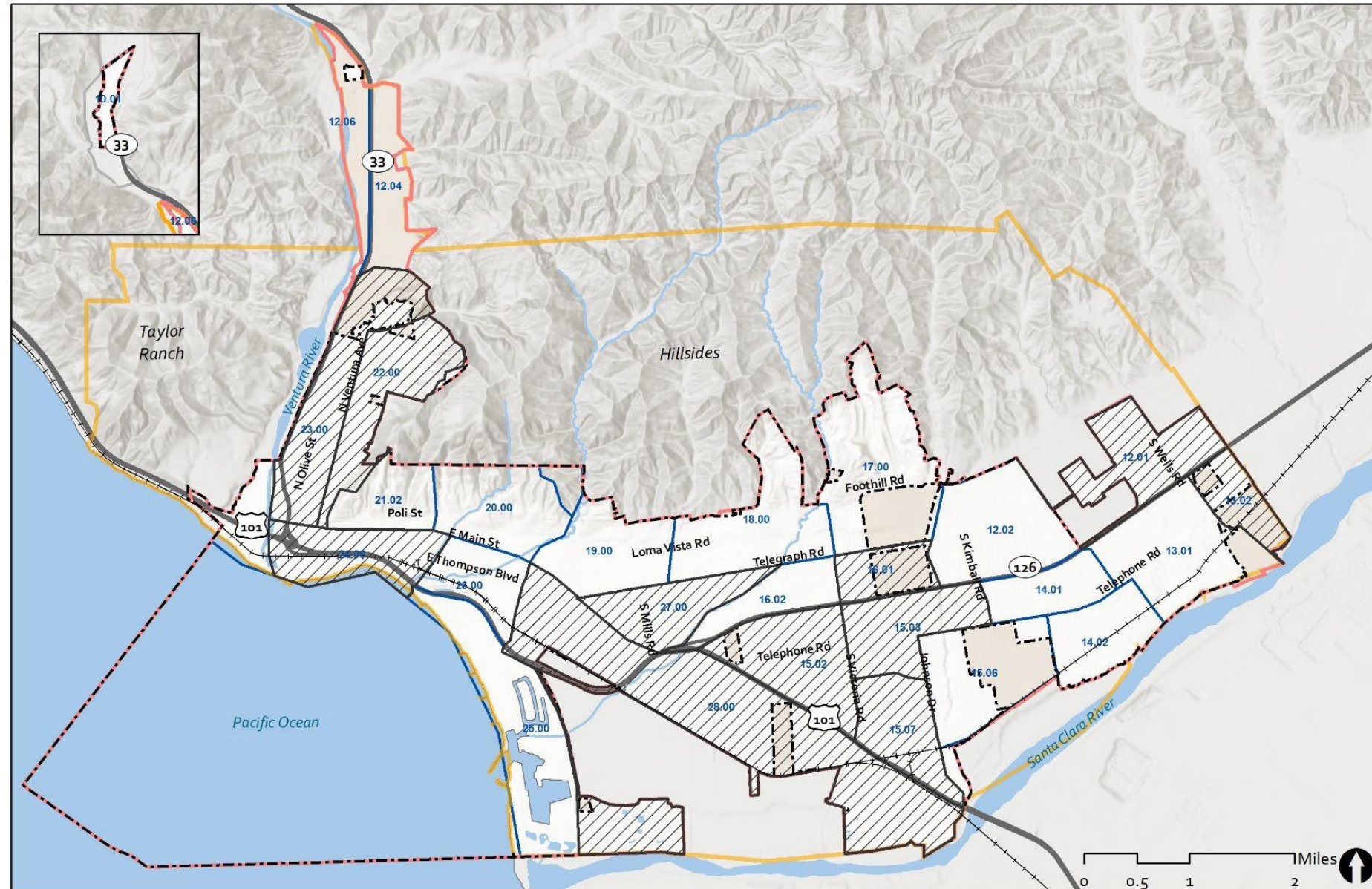
Figure 2. Ventura Oil Fields – circa 1930s (Source unknown)



Oil and Gas Facilities



Disadvantaged Communities Screening Results



Note: Four-digit bold numbers in blue represent census tract numbers.
 Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); ESRI (2020)

Live Poll

Question: Which of the potential pollution exposure indicators most concerns you?

Answer choices:

- Pesticides use
- Groundwater threats
- Hazardous waste generators and facilities
- Traffic-related air pollution
- Oil and gas facilities

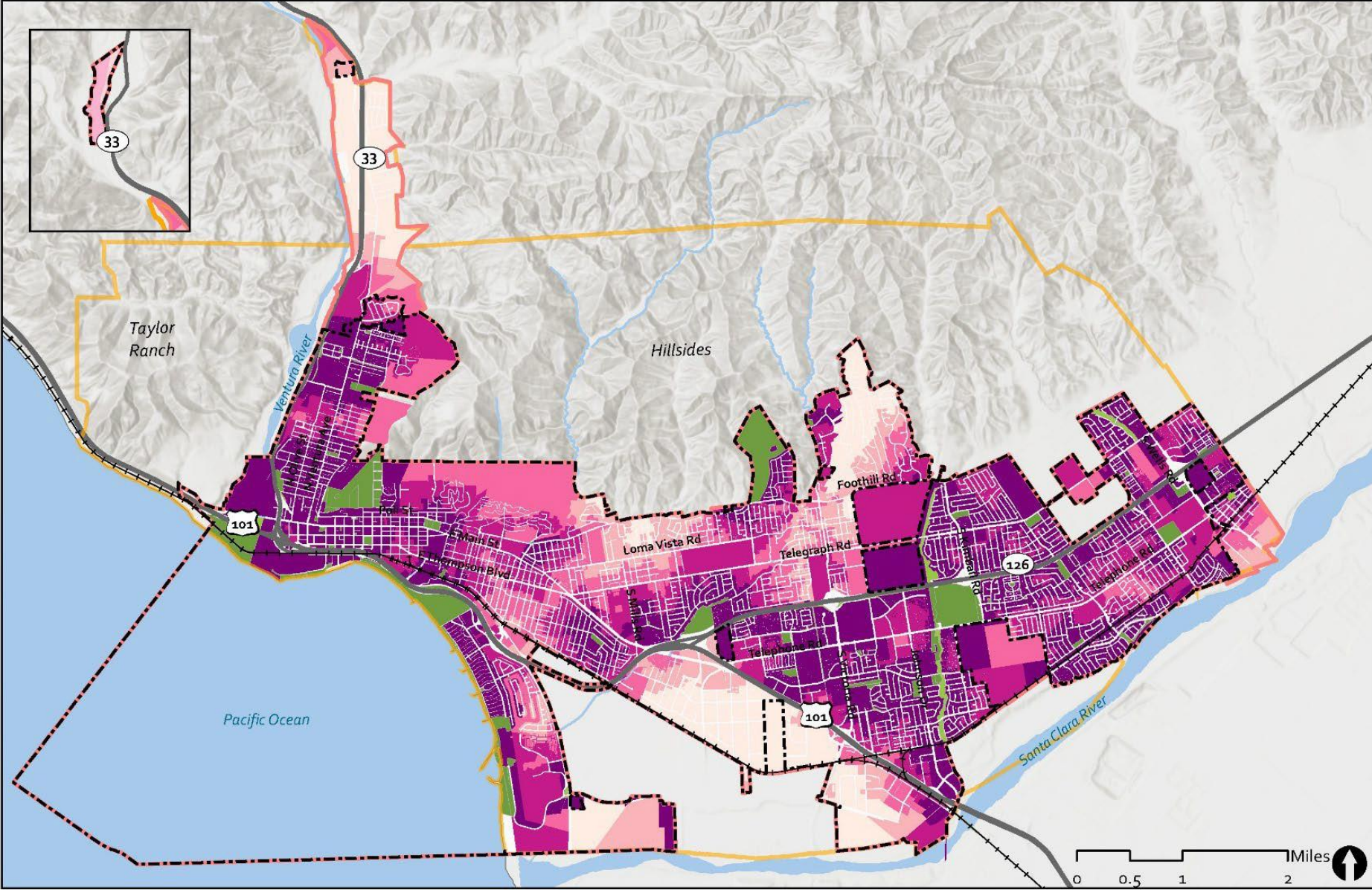
Health and Built Environment

Additional Policy Topics

- Food access
- Physical activity
- Public facilities
- Safe and sanitary homes
- Health outcomes



Park Access



Ventura City Limits

Sphere of Influence

Planning Boundary

Railroad

Freeway

Parks / Recreation

Open Spaces

Walk Time to Parks

< 5 mins

5 - 10 mins

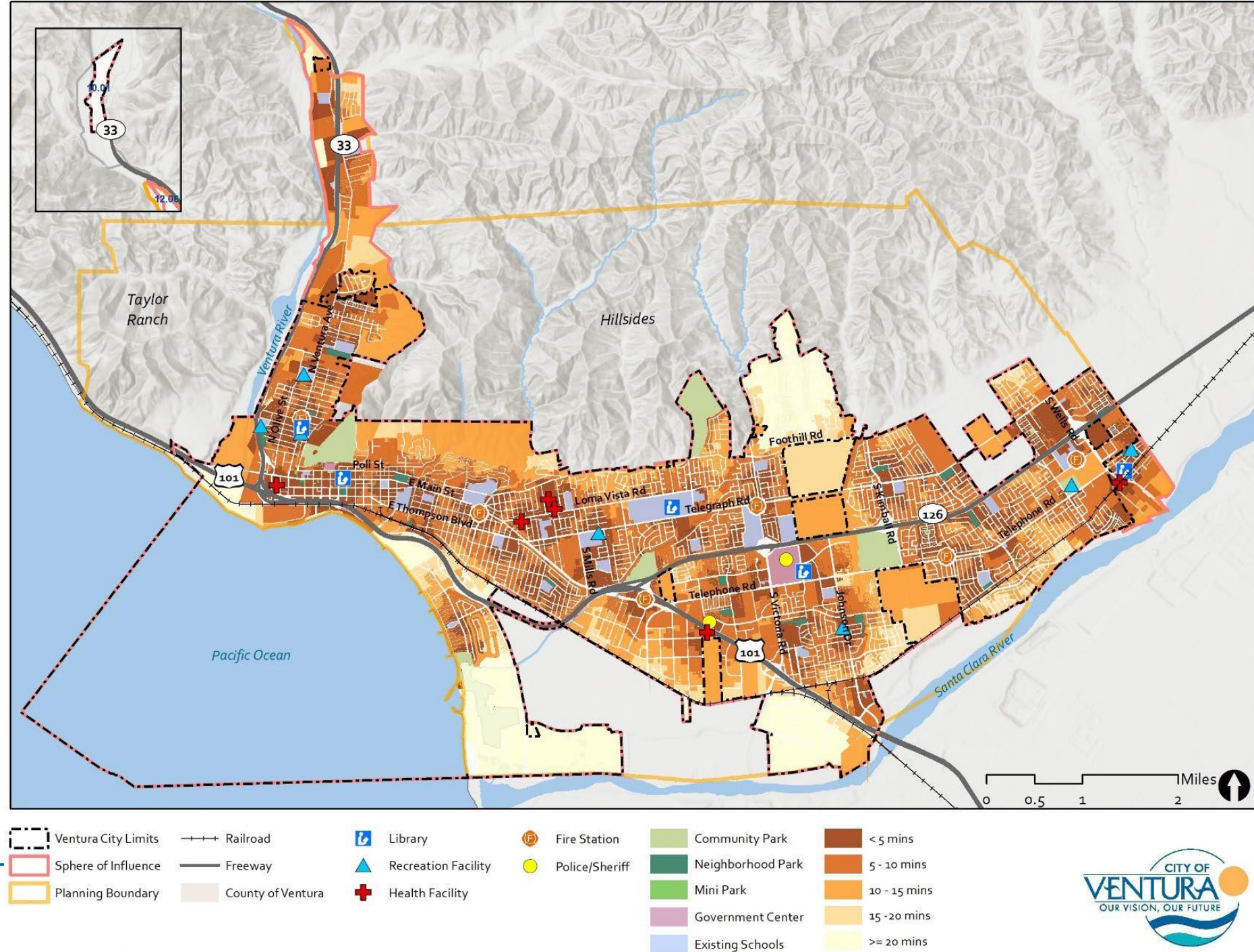
10 - 15 mins

15 - 20 mins

>= 20 mins

Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); ESRI (2020)

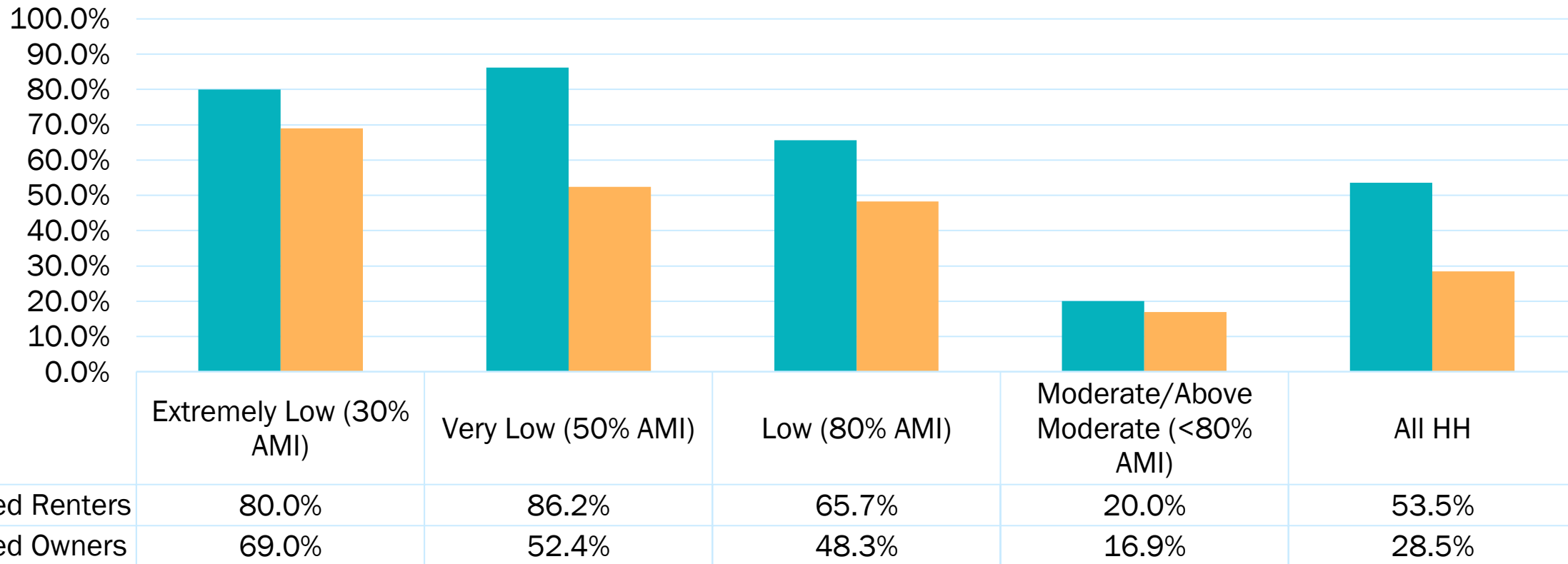
Transit Accessibility to Public Facilities and Services



Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); ESRI (2020)

Housing Cost Burden

- Cost Burden = Household paying more than 30% income on housing

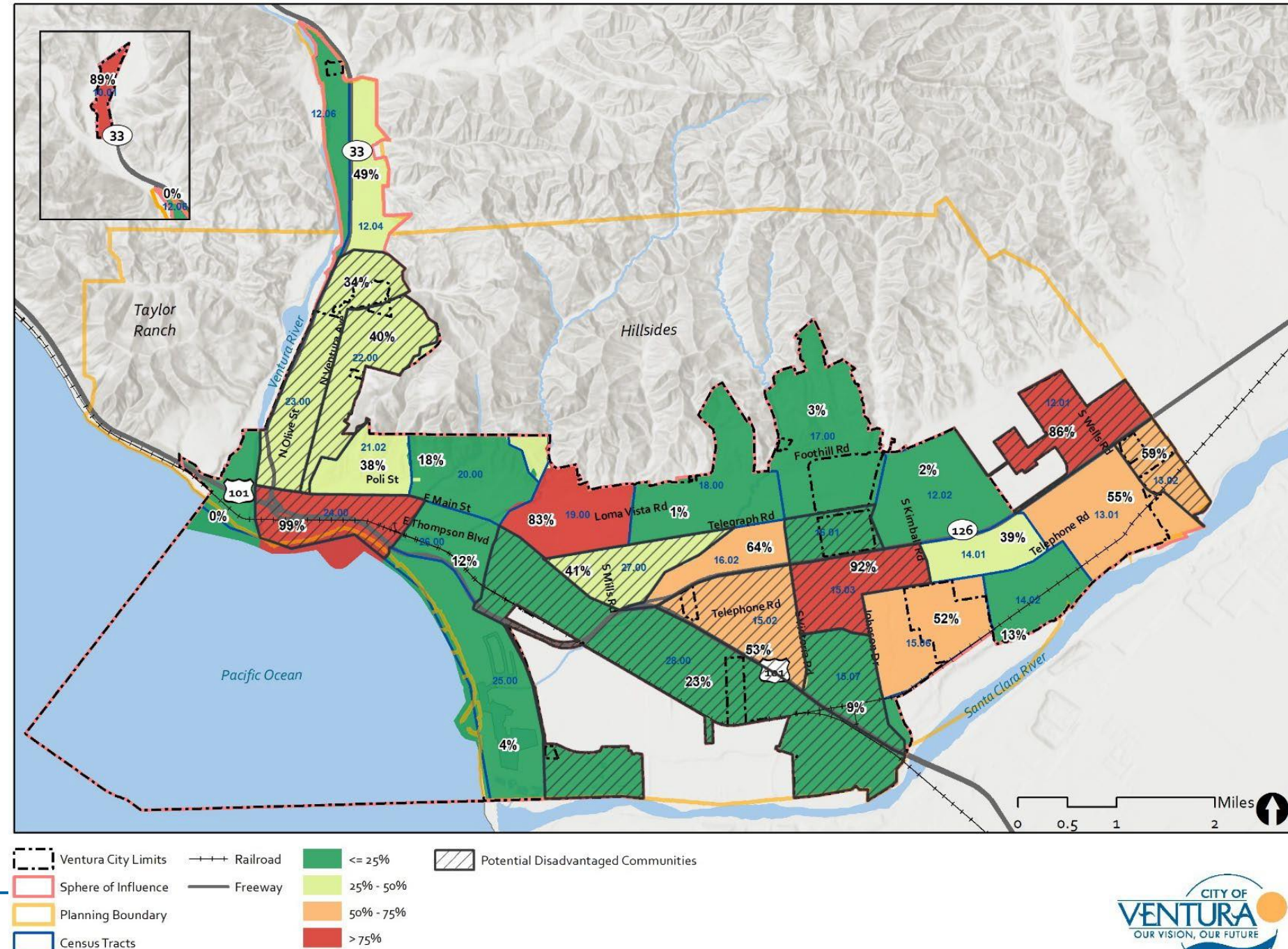


Overcrowding

- Overcrowding = more than 1.0 occupants per room
- Severe overcrowding = more than 1.5 occupants per room

	Renter		Owner		Total Households	
	Number	% of Renter HH	Number	% of Owner HH	Number	% of all HH
Overcrowding	1,290	6.8%	280	1.3%	1,570	3.8%
Severely Overcrowded	485	2.6%	50	0.2%	535	1.3%
Source: American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates						

Low Birthweight



Note: Two-digit bold numbers in black represent CES low birthweight percentile scores. Four-digit bold numbers in blue represent census tract numbers.
 Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); CalEnviroScreen 3.0 (2018); ESRI (2020)

Health Outcomes Among Children and Youth

Percentage of Children & Youth			
	Ventura	County	State
Ever diagnosed with asthma (ages < 18) (<u>lower</u> percentages are better)	10.9%	10.4%	14.5%
Overweight for age (ages 2-11) (<u>lower</u> percentages are better)	13.0%	12.9%	14.9%
Regular physical activity (ages 5-17) (<u>higher</u> percentages are better)	13.1%	11.2%	16.5%

Source: California Health Interview Survey, 2018

Health Outcomes Among Adults

Percentage of Adults			
	Ventura	County	State
Ever diagnosed with asthma (<u>lower</u> percentages are better)	13.5%	12.8%	15.9%
Ever diagnosed with heart disease (<u>lower</u> percentages are better)	7.2%	6.9%	6.8%
Obese (BMI≥30) (<u>lower</u> percentages are better)	22.5%	22.8%	26.8%
Walked at least 150 minutes (<u>higher</u> percentages are better)	43.7%	44.0%	38.9%

Conclusions



Some areas of strength

- Active living environment (beaches, hills, and bike routes)
- High availability of healthy foods
- Strong access to public facilities and services
- Lower rates of overweight and obesity
- Lower rates of asthma

Some areas of concern

- Several DACs within Ventura
- High potential pollution exposure from pesticides use, groundwater threats, hazardous waste facilities, traffic-related air pollution, and oil and gas facilities
- Limited access to neighborhood parks
- Lower rates of physical activity among children and youth
- Many homes built before 1980; risk of childhood lead exposure

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Best Practices

How can the General Plan address equity?

Procedural Equity

- Transparent, fair and inclusive process
- Ensure all are treated openly and fairly
- Increase civic engagement opportunities

Distributional Equity

- Fairly distribute resources, benefits, and burdens
- Prioritize resources for communities that experience greatest inequities and unmet needs

Structural Equity

- Make a commitment to correct past harms and prevent future unintended consequences
- Address structural and institutional systems that are the root causes of social and racial inequities

EJ Element Goals and Policies

Health or EJ Issue	Example Goal and Policy
Healthy Food Access	"Access to healthy food includes the ability to access economic development opportunities. The County will support development of food system employment training opportunities, such as food business incubator projects." (Sacramento County)
Reducing Pollution Exposures	"Encourage and educate residents and businesses to implement integrated pest management principles and reduce or discontinue the use of pesticides and herbicides on their property." (Murrieta)
Promoting Safe and Sanitary Homes	"Require new sensitive land uses to include feasible measures such as separation/setbacks, landscaping, barriers, ventilation systems, air filters/cleaners, and/or other effective measures to minimize potential impacts from air pollution." (National City)
Promoting Public Facilities	"Ensure that all education institutions, community facilities and major commercial corridors and areas are served by public transit. Ensure that they are served a local public transit stop or are located within a half-mile of a regional public transit stop." (Richmond)
Promoting Physical Activity	"The City shall encourage the planning of new communities and revitalization of existing urban areas to achieve improvements in overall public health by encouraging a healthier living environment that includes walkable neighborhoods, access to recreation and open space, healthy foods, medical services, and public transit." (Sacramento)

Other General Plan Elements

- Housing
 - Market-feasible multi-family housing
 - Inclusionary housing ordinance
 - Incentives for affordable housing
 - Eliminating exclusionary zoning practices
- Transportation and Mobility
 - Improved transit access
 - Safe active transportation infrastructure
- Public Facilities and Services
 - Equitable siting of public facilities
 - Free/low-cost internet service
- Governance
 - Diversity in hiring
 - Equal access to government for all
 - Participate in Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE)

Live Poll

Question: Which of the Senate Bill 1000 topic areas most concerns you?

Answer choices:

- Reduce pollution exposure
- Promote food access
- Promote physical activity
- Promote public facilities
- Promote safe and sanitary homes

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Discussion/Q&A

Questions

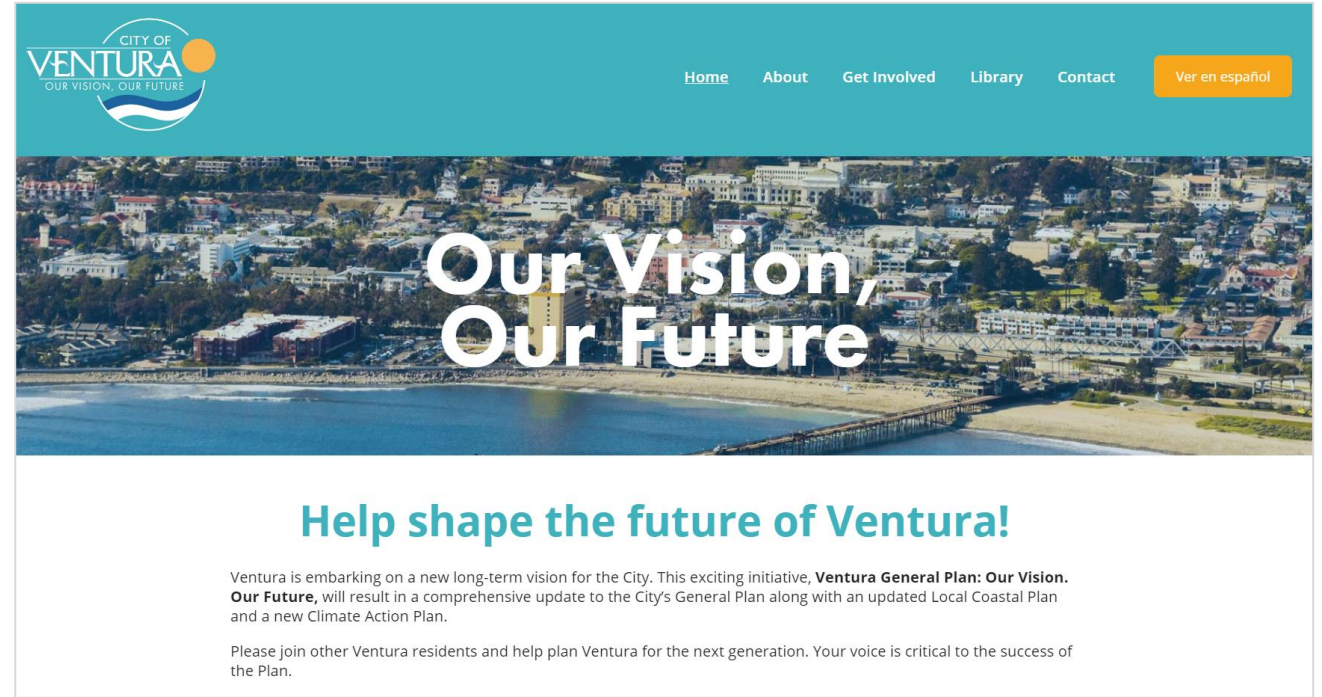
- What questions do you have about the information presented?
- What are the key health, equity, and EJ issues in your community?
- What's your vision for a healthy, equitable, and environmentally just community?

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Next Steps

Get Involved!

- Visit planventura.com
- [Sign up for updates](#)
- Take the visioning survey!
- Attend GPAC meetings
- Questions:
planventura@cityofventura.ca.gov



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